

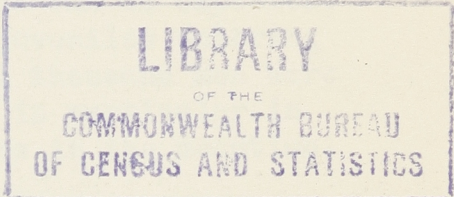
10th March, 1947.

B.S. 1947/1

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS.

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PART I EMPLOYMENT, BUILDING AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES.EMPLOYMENT (New South Wales):General:

Total employment in non-rural industries increased by 4,000 to 892,000 during January; female employment fell by 2,000 but that decrease was more than offset by an increase of 6,000 in male employment. Female employment is now almost equal to the level of the end of the war but male employment has increased by 105,000. As demobilisation is now practically completed no further substantial addition to the labour force from that source can be expected. Additional male labour will become available only from juveniles entering employment and from immigration. During January several thousand men were temporarily out of work because of industrial disputes, in particular in waterfront workshops, but many of them took on other jobs in the meantime.

Commonwealth Employment Service reports make it clear that, in general, the demand for labour exceeds the number of those offering for work; temporary unemployment (which did not exceed 2% of the total male labour force in January) was only caused by industrial disputes, unsuitability for vacant jobs or was of a local character. The mobility of labour is greatly hampered by the housing shortage but with new industries starting in areas where labour is still available this difficulty is being overcome.

Month	WAGE & SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT, N.S.W.					NET ENLISTMENTS in Armed Forces N.S.W.		UNEMPLOYMENT ALL Causes N.S.W.
	Rural Workers	Domestics (a)	Others					
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males
			Thousands					
1939 July	81 ^(b)	52	530	168	698	6	-	112
1945 July	40 ^(b)	19	534	252	786	224	16	18 ^(c)
1946 July	63 ^(b)		612	247	859	50	4	
Aug.			619	247	866	45	3	
Sept.			624	249	873	41	3	
Oct.			629	251	880	38	2	
Nov.			633	254	887	35	2	
Dec.			633	255	888	32	2	
1947 Jan.			639	253	892	29	2	

(a) Employed in private households.

(b) Number of rural employees are ascertained annually in March.

(c) Not known. Probably no change since July, 1945.

Note: Adjustment to bring the above estimates into line with the Occupation Survey of 1945 will cause the above figures to be revised to 539,000 males and 247,000 females, a total of 786,000, for July 1945, with corresponding adjustments for later months. In addition, adjustments will be made to estimated monthly employment in building and in factories. Revised totals for December, 1946 will be in the vicinity of 650,000 males and 250,000 females, a total of 900,000, to compare with those quoted in this note for July, 1945. Amendments to intervening figures will not materially alter the trend in female employment but will show a rather greater increase in male employment than the estimated figures in the above table.

COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE:

Reports from Commonwealth Employment offices (December, 1946) indicate that of 12,165 persons registered as disengaged 7,846 were registered in Sydney and suburbs; a substantial proportion of these were idle because of industrial disputes and hold-ups on the wharves. About 1,265 were unemployed in the coalfields.

Settlement of industrial disputes and industrial expansion will absorb most of these temporarily unemployed. New industries are being established in suburban and country areas which so far have not been greatly developed industrially and

make use of local unskilled labour but will also aggravate the acute shortage of skilled tradesmen. Employment offices at the end of December, 1946 had unfilled vacancies for about 2,000 tram conductors etc., about 1,290 bricklayers, carpenters and electricians, and 500 policemen; and for 575 typistes, 1,570 female textile workers, 2,250 women in clothing factories, 790 waitresses, and for 6,450 men and 7,150 women in other industries. Only for clerks did the number of unplaced men substantially exceed available vacancies.

Failure of crops in many districts had lessened the demand for rural labour in December, 1946 but unemployment there was not large and confined to certain regions, while in others (Riverina and South West) seasonal labour was short.

The number of men registered as waiting for placement with the Commonwealth Employment Service in New South Wales has risen from 9,000 in October, 1946 to 12,900 in January, 1947. Industrial disputes in waterside engineering, chemical and other industries are the main cause for this increase, and with the settlement of the main dispute at the end of February, the number of unplaced men is expected to decline again. After a lull caused by the holidays, the number of vacancies notified by employers rose again in January although not quite to the level of November, 1946; it is possible that the labour shortage has eased in recent months or that industrial disputes and shortages are retarding industrial development. The number of boys and girls leaving school at the end of 1946 and entering employment was apparently too small to ease appreciably the demand for juvenile labour.

REGISTRATIONS WITH COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, NEW SOUTH WALES.
(Thousands)

Month	JUVENILE				ADULT				Unemployment & Re-establishment Benefits	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	Female
	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies		
1946-July	0.6	1.8	0.8	5.3	10.4	8.7	2.6	10.0	2.4	0.1
August	0.6	1.8	0.6	5.4	10.1	10.0	1.2	10.5	2.5	0.1
September	0.6	1.9	0.6	5.4	9.2	10.1	1.3	10.4	2.7	0.1
October	0.7	1.8	0.6	5.4	9.0	10.8	1.3	9.7	2.4	0.1
November	0.7	1.8	0.5	5.4	10.3	10.6	1.1	8.5	2.1	0.1
December	0.8	1.6	0.6	4.9	11.3	8.6	1.1	7.4	3.1	0.1
1947-January	1.0	1.8	0.8	5.1	12.9	9.7	1.5	7.8	3.2	0.1

EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIES:

The decrease in factory employment in December (caused by industrial disputes) was partly recovered in January. Total factory employment was 325,500 in January as against 326,700 in November. Employment in transport and communication services (after being stationary in the latter part of 1946) rose by 1,900 to 114,600 in January, 1947. Increases in other employment shown in the table below is partly accounted for by teachers who graduated at the end of 1946 starting work and by an increase in the staff of the Main Roads Department.

Total civil employment (excluding rural) increased by approximately 88,000 during the war period and of that increase 83,000 was in factories. Since the end of the war period the total has risen again by 105,700 including a further increase of 24,500 in factories; retail stores which had greatly curtailed their staffs during the war show the largest proportional increase. A decline of 2,500 in the staffs of retail stores during January, 1947 is due to the cessation of temporary employment of the Christmas season.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, NEW SOUTH WALES

(Thousands)

Month	Factories	Mining and Quarrying	Transport & Communication	Commerce & Finance		Professional & Personal Services	Other	Total
				Retail Trade	Other			
1939-July	218.0	25.3	88.9	79.9	59.3	107.6	118.9	697.9
1945-July	301.0	24.8	102.6	69.1	56.5	116.1	116.0	786.1
1946-July	318.3	25.5	111.9	82.7	70.8	131.0	119.3	859.5
Aug.	321.3	25.7	112.4	82.4	72.3	132.0	120.3	866.4
Sept.	323.4	26.0	112.8	83.7	73.3	132.5	121.3	873.0
Oct.	325.8	26.1	112.3	84.8	74.0	135.0	121.9	879.9
Nov.	326.7	26.4	112.9	87.7	74.1	135.8	123.2	886.8
Dec.	324.3	26.2	112.7	90.8	74.3	136.4	123.6	888.3
1947-Jan.	325.5	26.1	114.6	88.3	74.5	137.2	125.6	891.8
<u>Increases:</u>								
July'45-Jan'47	+24.5	+1.3	+12.0	+19.2	+18.0	+21.1	+ 9.6	+105.7
July'39-Jan'47	+107.5	+0.8	+25.7	+ 8.4	+15.2	+29.6	+ 6.7	+193.9

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES:

A rise of 1,200 to 325,500 in factory employment in January was mainly due to higher employment in the metal trades. In most other industries employment in January, 1947 was nearly equal to the pre-Christmas level.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORY CLASSES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Thousands)

Factory Class	1939	1945	1946			1947
	July	June	October	November	December	January
Bricks, cement, glass etc.	12.3	9.9	13.9	14.0	13.6	14.1
Chemicals, paints, oils etc.	8.0	12.3	14.6	14.5	14.3	14.3
Metal trades, incl. vehicles	81.3	145.5	138.2	137.4	135.8	137.4
Textiles	14.7	18.3	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.1
Clothing	29.1	33.2	40.5	41.0	40.7	40.6
Food, drink & tobacco	26.4	31.6	34.4	34.9	35.6	34.9
Sawmills, woodworking, furniture	14.4	16.0	18.9	19.1	19.1	19.1
Printing, paper etc.	16.4	15.6	20.7	21.0	20.9	20.9
Other factories, incl. heat, light and power	15.5	19.3	24.4	24.6	24.1	24.1
Total Factory Employment	218.1	301.7	325.8	326.7	324.3	325.5

EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES:

A reduction of 2,000 in the number of female wage and salary earners is mainly due to the decline in retail store employment after the Christmas season. The other groups show smaller changes during the month.

Total female employment (excluding rural and domestics) at the end of January was approximately equal to the level at the end of the war, and 85,000 (50%) above pre-war level. The number of domestics in private households fell by about 32,000 during the war and most of them have probably entered other employment; apart from these, it is evident that because of the wide scope of jobs offering for women and better wages and working conditions, many married women are staying in employment; women formerly engaged in household duties, in particular country girls have also been attracted into industrial employment. Of the 14,000 service-women discharged in New South Wales since the end of the war approximately 4,000 intended to take jobs in non-rural industries and have probably been absorbed into employment by now. With new factories opening up in country centres an additional number of women not previously in jobs may find employment but at the same time women will leave jobs because of family responsibilities. On the whole it seems unlikely that female employment will for long remain at the high war-time level.

FEMALE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN MAIN INDUSTRIES, NEW SOUTH WALES
(Thousands)

Month	Factories	Transport & Communication	Commerce & Finance		Professional & Personal Services	Total ^x all Groups
			Retail Trade	Other		
1939 - July	59.3	5.3	32.5	10.2	47.7	168.0
1945 - July	86.4	14.6	39.2	20.6	68.5	252.1
May	81.8	13.1	40.9	20.5	72.4	247.5
June	82.2	13.1	40.8	20.4	72.2	246.7
July	83.1	12.6	40.9	20.6	72.2	247.1
August	83.2	12.5	40.5	20.9	72.7	247.3
September	83.9	12.4	41.1	21.1	73.4	249.2
October	84.6	12.1	41.3	21.5	74.2	250.9
November	85.5	12.0	43.0	21.4	74.6	253.6
December	84.9	11.8	44.8	21.3	74.6	254.7
1947 - January	83.6	12.4	43.3	21.2	74.7	252.7
Variation:						
July '45 - Jan. '47	-22.8	-2.2	+4.1	+0.6	+6.2	+ 0.6
July '39 - Jan. '47	+24.3	+7.1	+10.8	+11.0	+27.0	+84.7

(+) denotes increase (-) denotes decrease.

(x) Excl. private household domestics and rural workers.

(NOTE: Revisions are contemplated which will reduce the "total all groups" by about 4,000 as from July, 1945. These are consequent on checks derived from Occupation Survey but will not appreciably affect trends.)

The number of women working in factories has fallen by about 2,000 since November. Female employment in clothing factories which had risen from 25,900 in June, 1945 to 31,200 in November, 1946 has begun to decline. Textile undertakings which have been particularly short of labour since the end of the war, had 800 less women on their staffs in January, 1947 than in June, 1945.

FEMALE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN FACTORIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.
(Thousands)

Factory Class	1939	1945	1946			1947
	July	June	October	November	December	January
Bricks, cement, glass etc.	.5	.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Chemicals, paints, oils etc.	2.7	4.0	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4
Metal Trades incl. vehicles	4.8	21.3	13.7	13.9	13.8	13.6
Textiles	9.2	11.5	10.9	11.0	10.9	10.7
Clothing	22.2	25.9	30.9	31.2	30.9	30.7
Food, drink & tobacco	9.3	11.2	10.1	10.1	10.5	10.3
Sawmills, woodworking, furniture	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Printing, paper etc.	5.4	5.7	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.3
Other factories, including heat, light and power	3.6	4.9	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.2
Total Factory Employment	59.3	86.9	84.6	85.5	84.9	83.6

BUILDING ACTIVITY:

Preliminary estimates of actual building activity in New South Wales have now been made for the quarter ended 31st December, 1946. These are based primarily on returns of building operations collected from building contractors and government bodies engaged in building, principally on a day labour basis. The figures recorded in these returns relating to the number of houses have been adjusted on the basis of information obtained from other sources, particularly a return supplied by local governing authorities of actual building activity within the areas of their administration.

The following table shows the estimated value of all new building in New South Wales

- (i) commenced during the quarter ended 31st December, 1946.
- (ii) completed in the same period, irrespective of the date of commencement.
- (iii) in course of construction at 31st December, 1946, irrespective of the date of commencement.

NEW SOUTH WALES - Value of New Buildings Commenced, completed, and under construction
Quarter ended 31st December, 1946.

Type of Building	COMMENCED DURING QUARTER ENDED 31/12/46			COMPLETED DURING QUARTER ENDED 31/12/46			UNDER CONSTRUCTION AS AT 31/12/46.		
	(a)			(a)			(a)		
	Private	Govt.	Total	Private	Govt.	Total	Private	Govt.	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Houses (b)	4,287	108	4,395	3,097	204	3,301	9,607	479	10,086
Flats	259	...	259	37	...	37	465	...	465
Shops with Dwgs	21	...	21	17	...	17	50	...	50
Shops without Dwgs	41	...	41	16	...	16	81	...	81
Hotels, Guest Houses etc.	11	...	11	33	...	33
Factories	1,462	1,462	1,462	224	...	224	3,371	...	3,371
Other Buildings	304	263	567	172	83	255	1,941	1,532	3,473
Total Building	6,385	371	6,756	3,563	287	3,850	15,548	2,011	17,559

- (a) "Private" includes and "Government" excludes Government buildings erected by private contractors.
- (b) Exclusive of houses being erected by their owners not employing a building contractor.

The estimated total value of all building commenced during the quarter ended 31st December, 1946, £6,756,000 shows an increase of £803,000 over the September quarter, 1946, the first period for which statistics of commencements were available.

Value of New Buildings Completed:

The value of new buildings completed during the December quarter compares with previous quarters as follows :-

NEW SOUTH WALES - Value of new buildings completed.

Period	Private (a)	Government	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Sept. Quarter 1945	2,056(b)	366	2,422(b)
Dec. Quarter 1945	1,905(b)	212	2,117(b)
March Quarter 1946	1,757	89	1,846
June Quarter 1946	2,026	194	2,220
Sept. Quarter 1946	2,791(c)	287(c)	3,078(c)
Dec. Quarter 1946	3,563(d)	287(d)	3,850(d)

- (a) "Private" includes and "Government" excludes Government buildings erected by private contractors.
- (b) Includes approximately £1,000,000 in September Quarter and £1,000,000 in December Quarter of major defence contracts terminated.
- (c) Revised
- (d) Approximate - subject to revision.

New House Building:

The following table shows the estimated number of new houses of all types commenced and completed during the quarter ended 31st December, 1946, and under construction at the end of the quarter, compared with previous quarters.

NEW SOUTH WALES - New Houses: commenced, completed, and under construction

PERIOD	COMMENCED DURING QUARTER			COMPLETED DURING QUARTER (b)			UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT END OF QTR. (b)		
	Private(a)	Govt.	Total	Private(a)	Govt.	Total	Private (a)	Govt.	Total
1945 Sept. Qtr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	863	296	1159	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dec. Qtr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	872	165	1037	2630	429	3059
1946 March Qtr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1150	81	1231	3632	478	4110
June Qtr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1539	141	1680	5235	468	5703
Sept. Qtr.(c)	3567	153	3720	1894	225	2119	6941	359	7300
Dec. Qtr.(d)	3387	113	3500	2643	157	2800	7648	352	8000

(a) "Private" includes and "Government" excludes Government Buildings erected by private contractors.

(b) Irrespective of date of commencement.

(c) Revised.

(d) Approximate: subject to revision.

The smaller number of commencements in the December quarter 1946 compared with September quarter was partly due to the smaller number of working days in the December quarter due to the custom of taking holidays around the Christmas period, and partly to industrial stoppages.

Labour engaged on new buildings:

Builders were asked to return employees working on their jobs on 9th January 1947. It was apparent that on this date many builders had not re-commenced operations after the Christmas period. On the basis of returns received it is estimated that there were 29,982 persons engaged in the construction of new buildings on 9th January, 1947, compared with 29,470 on 30th September, 1946, and 26,400 on 30th June, 1946.

NEW SOUTH WALES - PERSONS ENGAGED IN NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT.

DATE	NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS	NUMBER OF WAGE EARNERS			TOTAL PERSONS ENGAGED
		Private(a)	Govt.	Total	
1945 30th Sept.	3,000	7,400	3,900	11,300	14,300
1946 30th June	7,100	14,900	4,400	19,300	26,400
1946 30th Sept.	7,728	17,639	4,103	21,742	29,470
1947 9th January	7,220	18,335	4,427	22,762	29,982

(a) Employed by private contractors and sub-contractors on both private and Government jobs.

BUILDING MATERIALS: Brick and tile production in January was affected by the holidays and remained below the average of earlier months.

OUTPUT OF CERTAIN BUILDING MATERIALS, N.S.W.

(Monthly Averages)

PERIOD	BRICKS	TILES	LOCAL SAWN TIMBER
	(millions)	(millions)	(million superfoot)
1939	31.6	1.7	15.0
1945 (August)	8.3	0.5	18.4
1946 - March Quarter	12.3	1.2	18.5
June Quarter	15.3	1.4	20.0
September Quarter	19.3	1.6	24.0
October	22.3	1.7	
November	19.7	1.6	
December	16.9	1.3	
1947 January	14.4	1.3	

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES:

Industry was greatly affected by disputes in January which caused the loss of 231,000 man-working hours, that is more than in any month of the previous year. Disputes in the coal mining industry culminated in a general stoppage in South Coast mines at the end of February. A series of disputes in chemical, engineering, gas and waterside industries in January also affected production in other industries which are dependent on them.

NEW SOUTH WALES - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.
(Monthly Averages - Thousand Man-days lost)

Period	Coal Mining	Other Employment	Total
1937-39	39	14	53
1945	57	103	160
1946 - March Qtr.	20	23	43
June Qtr.	26	33	59
Sept. Qtr.	35	12	47
Dec. Qtr.	25	76	101
1947 - January	36	195	231

NEW FACTORIES:

Initial employment in new factories registered in New South Wales after a lag in the closing months of 1946, rose to 840 in January, 1947, making a total of 5,654 for the seven months ended January, 1947. About a third of that number is employed in factories outside the metropolitan area. Clothing factories show the greatest increase as compared with employment in existing factories.

INITIAL EMPLOYMENT IN NEW FACTORIES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.

Class of Factory	Seven months ended January, 1947			Twelve months ended June 1946
	Metropolitan	Balance of State	Total	Total
Metal Trades incl. vehicles	1,024	306	1,330	2,584
Clothing	1,104	648	1,752	2,647
Food, drink & tobacco	205	273	478	265
Woodworking, incl. sawmills	194	183	377	519
Paper, stationery, printing	131	115	246	155
Textile & textile goods	13	279	292	280
Other factories	978	201	1,179	1,276
All Factories	3,649	2,005	5,654	7,726

COAL PRODUCTION:

Coal production in New South Wales was not resumed until the second half of January, and the average output for the month was therefore low. As compared with the same period of 1946, a small increase in open-cut output made up for the slightly lower underground production.

COAL PRODUCTION, NEW SOUTH WALES

	Thousand tons		
<u>Yearly Average</u>	Underground	Open Cut	TOTAL
1936-1939	11,250	-	11,250
1940-1944	10,004	-	10,004
1945	9,714	524	10,238
1946 x	10,430	756	11,186
<u>Weekly Average</u>			
January, 1946	169	11	180
January, 1947	167	14	181
x preliminary.			

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS:

Passenger traffic in January, 1947, was slightly below that of January, 1945, and 1946, because fewer military personnel are now carried, but compared with January, 1939, the number of passenger journeys was higher by a third. Tonnage of goods carried during the seven months ended January, 1947, was 9.8 million tons, about 1 million tons more than during the comparative period of 1945/46 and about 1.8 million tons more than in 1938/39.

The high level of passengers and goods traffic has not improved railway finances. Increased gross earnings are being absorbed by mounting expenses. For the seven months ended January, 1947, gross earnings exceeded working expenses by £3.63 millions compared with £4.22 million in the corresponding period last year. In 1945-46 a surplus on working account of £6.2 millions (net after deducting subsidies) was required to meet debt charges. Working expenses for the second half of the financial year will be higher than during the first half because of the increase in the basic wage.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS
(Millions)

Year	Month of January			Seven Months ended January			
	Passenger Journeys	(a) Goods	Gross Earnings	Passenger Journeys	(a) Goods	Gross Earnings	Net (b) Earnings
	No.	Tons	£	No.	Tons	£	£
1939	16.3	1.05	1.52	111.7	8.04	11.17	3.00
1945	22.1	1.48	2.74	145.9	10.69	18.74	4.81
1946	21.7	1.20	2.52	152.4	8.88	18.08	4.22
1947	21.5	1.26	2.65	150.7	9.83	17.93	3.63

(a) Excluding livestock. (b) Gross earnings less working expenses, available to meet debt charges.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED (N.S.W.):
CARS:

During January, 1947, 584 new motor cars were registered as against 893 in December, 1946. Production difficulties overseas and in Australia (steel for body-building etc.) are still limiting supplies of motor vehicles. At the end of January 198,500 cars were on the register in the State, that is only 20,000 less than at outbreak of war. It has been estimated that nearly a quarter of cars registered are more than 18 years old, and a great proportion of cars now on the road are worn out and would be scrapped if new cars were available.

LORRIES AND UTILITIES: Monthly registrations of new lorries have fallen from 509 in October, 1946, to 334 in January, 1947. However, because of re-registrations of old vehicles and conversion of Army lorries to civilian use, the total number of lorries (incl. utilities, vans, and tractors) reached 109,900 at the end of January as against 86,100 at the end of the war and 78,700 at outbreak of war.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW SOUTH WALES

PERIOD	NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED			CIVILIAN VEHICLES ON REGISTER ^x		
	Cars (a)	Lorries (b)	Total	Cars (a)	Lorries (b)	Total (c)
1938-39 (Monthly Average)	1718	660	2378	000	000	000
1945 - August	26	201	227	218.7 ^{xx}	78.7 ^{xx}	298.6 ^{xx}
1946 - August	319	521	840	188.1	86.1	274.8
- September	561	489	1050	194.0	102.2	297.1
- October	626	509	1135	194.9	104.0	299.8
- November	815	438	1253	195.8	105.7	302.5
- December	893	430	1323	196.7	107.3	305.1
1947 - January	584	334	918	197.9	108.8	307.8
				198.5	109.9	309.5

(a) Including motor buses and cabs

(b) Including utilities, vans and tractors

(c) Including traders' plates

x As at end of month

xx As at 31st August, 1939.

CONSUMPTION OF MOTOR SPIRIT:

Monthly motor spirit sales in the New South Wales Pool area show a steady increase from about 7.3 million gallons at the end of the war to 11.6 million gallons in January, 1947. Consumption by the armed services has fallen from 1.6 million gallons to 162,000 while civilian consumption has more than doubled and now stands at 11 million gallons a month.

NEW SOUTH WALES POOL AREA, SALES OF MOTOR SPIRIT
(Monthly averages, thousands of gallons)

Period		SERVICES	OTHER GOVERNMENT	CIVIL	TOTAL
1945	September Quarter	1552	413	5380	7345
	December "	1214	425	6918	8557
1946	March "	638	416	7276	8330
	June "	462	459	8245	9166
	September "	398	515	9388	10301
	December "	247	534	10110	10891
1947	January (Month)	162	493	10918	11573

IRON & STEEL PRODUCTION - GAS & ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION:

Because of the holidays, iron and steel production in December, 1946 and January, 1947 was lower than in November. The output of iron and steel products remains much below requirements, and the shortage of these products is retarding production in industries dependent on them and is also affecting building operations.

The gas strike in Sydney reduced supplies in December, 1946 and January, 1947: it did apparently not affect the level of electricity consumption which remained steady at 94-95% above, the pre-war level during the past three months (seasonally adjusted index).

Period	Index of Production		Index of Consumption (b) Sydney	
	PIG IRON (a)	INGOT STEEL	GAS	ELECTRICITY
Average 1937-39	100	100	100	100
Year 1938-39	112	103	101	110
1946 - July	123	116	142	191
August	113	112	143	190
September	116	117	151	199
October	116	119	151	206
November	120	120	153	195
December	116	108	129	194
1947 - January	117	106	114	195

(a) N.S.W. and Whyalla

(b) Seasonally adjusted.

PART II: F I N A N C E & T R A D ENINE TRADING BANKS, AUSTRALIA:

Customers' deposits with trading banks in Australia rose from £624 millions in November, 1946 to £642 millions in January, 1947 and advances show a proportionate increase from £258 millions to £268 millions. The rise in advances which is indicative of business expansion has been steady but not excessive throughout 1946. Shortages of manpower and materials have kept expansion in check; also many firms had large accumulated liquid reserves at the end of the war and could finance reconversion to peacetime production without recourse to the banks.

Between January, 1946 and 1947, customers' deposits increased by £28 millions but during the same period the banks were required to lodge an additional £35 millions on special deposit with the Commonwealth Bank. Although they therefore lost freely disposable deposit funds, they were able to increase advances to customers by £55 millions because of a reduction of £31 millions in their holdings of Government securities and the retirement of £43 millions of Treasury bills. Amounts deposited by trading banks in special account with the Commonwealth Bank are equivalent to 42 per cent of customers' deposits. The rate of interest for Special Accounts was reduced from $\frac{1}{2}$ % p.a. to $\frac{1}{4}$ % p.a. in February, 1947.

NINE TRADING BANKS - BUSINESS WITHIN AUSTRALIA

(Weekly Averages - £ millions)

Month	Deposits at credit of Customers	Advances to Customers	Gov't & Municipal Securities	Special A/c. with Commonwealth Bank	Treas- ury Bills	Cash	Ratios to Deposits		
							Advances	Cash & Treas- -ury Bills	Special Account
							per cent	per cent	per cent
Jan. 1939	321	285	19	-	24	39	89	20	-
Jan. 1946	614	209	117	233	72	44	34	19	38
Oct. 1946	624	252	107	252	24	36	41	9	40
Nov. 1946	624	258	101	257	25	37	41	10	41
Dec. 1946	635	261	91	263	25	42	41	11	41
Jan. 1947	642	264	86	268	29	46	41	12	42

DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES, N.S.W. - AUSTRALIA.

Since the end of the war deposits with the principal trading banks in New South Wales have increased from £220 millions to £246 millions, due to a rise of about £31 millions on current account and a fall of £5 millions in interest-bearing deposits. Trading bank advances increased steadily throughout 1946 and in January, 1947 were £21 million higher than at the end of the war.

NINE TRADING BANKS, DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES

(Weekly Average - £ millions)

Period	Deposits				Advances	
	New South Wales			Australia	N.S.W.	Australia
	Bearing Interest	Other	Total	Total		
1939 March Quarter	65	51	116	322	118	285
1945 September	79	141	220	580	84	208
1946 October	75	166	241	624	101	252
November	74	166	240	624	104	258
December	75	170	245	635	104	261
1947 January	x	x	246	642	105	264

x Not yet available.

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK, N.S.W.

1946 A decline in withdrawals from savings bank accounts in December/and January, 1947 despite the holiday season seems to indicate a slowing down in consumer spending. New deposits in January were slightly less than withdrawals and total deposits fell by £300,000 to £231 millions during the month, that is £7.3 millions less than in July, 1946 when they had reached the highest level. During the same period deposits with trading banks in New South Wales rose by about £15 millions. Much of the increase in savings deposits during the last half of 1945 and in 1946 was due to credits of deferred pay and part of these are now being withdrawn and used for business purposes or investment.

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK, N.S.W.
(£ millions)

Month	Deposits lodged during Month	Withdrawals made during Month	Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Savings	Total Deposits	<u>AUSTRALIA</u> All Savings Banks Total Deposits
1939 March	-	-	-	86.5	244.9
1945 December	18.0	13.3	+ 4.7	219.6	622.6
1946 July	16.6	15.5	+ 1.1	237.3	666.6
August	14.5	14.8	- 0.3	237.0	666.9
September	13.1	14.3	- 1.2	235.8	664.8
October	14.1	15.1	- 1.0	234.8	661.9
November	13.4	15.2	- 1.8	233.0	658.2
December	12.5	14.2	- 1.7	231.3	653.8
1947 January	12.4	12.7	- 0.3	231.0	652.8

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS:

Transfers of properties registered in January, 1947 totalled £4.56 millions, that is about £500,000 more than in December but below the high level of July to November, 1946. The holidays seem to have retarded registrations during December and January.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.)
(£ millions)

Monthly Averages		Sales	Mortgages
1938	Year	3.12	2.25
1945	"	2.35	0.81
1946	"	4.24	1.76
1946	Sept. Quarter	5.37	2.10
	October	5.83	2.16
	November	5.18	2.16
	December	4.10	2.47
1947	January	4.56	1.86

COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS:

Income tax collections which earlier in the current financial year had lagged behind the previous year exceeded 1945/46 figures in December 1946 and January 1947. The increase in the basic wage has led to higher deductions from wages but because of the lag in final assessments present figures give no definite indication of income tax yield for the whole year. Customs and excise revenue are buoyant. Reductions in rates of duty introduced in November, 1946 were estimated to lower customs and excise revenue by £2.5 millions for the remainder of the current financial year. Sales tax revenue reflects cuts estimated in November to reduce revenue by £9 millions for the remainder of the year.

COMMONWEALTH TAX REVENUE
(£ millions)

Month	Income Tax		Customs & Exc.		Sales Tax		Payroll Tax		All Taxes ^x	
	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47
July	21.0	17.1	5.5	7.6	2.3	3.0	1.0	1.1	30.8	29.7
August	16.0	11.9	5.7	8.3	2.6	3.4	0.9	1.1	26.0	25.6
Sept.	13.1	14.8	5.7	8.0	2.4	3.7	1.0	1.1	23.0	28.4
Oct.	13.4	12.2	6.3	8.7	2.8	4.2	0.9	1.1	24.2	27.1
Nov.	12.9	12.2	6.7	8.5	2.7	3.8	0.9	1.2	24.0	26.6
Dec.	11.5	13.6	5.9	8.4	1.6	3.2	0.9	1.1	20.4	27.0
Jan.	14.2	14.7	6.7	8.5	3.9	3.1	1.0	1.2	27.5	28.4

x incl. others.

Total revenue from taxation for the seven months ended January, 1947 was £192.8 millions as compared with £175.9 millions for the corresponding period of 1945/46. Expenditure for defence and War II decreased by £161.9 millions for the same periods. Increases in social service benefits, tax reimbursements to the States and higher departmental expenses required £32.3 millions more in 1946/47 than in 1945/46. Because of high revenue the Commonwealth debt position continues to improve. Retirement of £5 millions Treasury bills in January, 1947 reduced the total outstanding in Australia to £283 millions as against £390 millions in January, 1946. All defence expenditure since November, 1946 has been met from revenue. Of a budgeted loan expenditure for defence of £58.5 millions for 1946/47 only £13.8 millions had been spent to the end of January.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JANUARY
(£ millions)

REVENUE			EXPENDITURE		
Item	1945/46	1946/47	Item	1945/46	1946/47
Customs & Excise	42.5	58.0	Social Services	30.0	36.6
Income Tax	102.1	96.6	Payments to States	9.3	12.3
Sales Tax	18.4	24.3	Tax Reimbursed to States	10.4	18.4
Payroll Tax	6.6	7.9	Post Office	11.8	12.7
Other Taxes	6.3	6.0	Other	26.9	40.7
Total Taxes	175.9	192.8	Total of above	88.4	120.7
Post Office	16.5	17.1	Defence and War II	274.1	112.2
Other	6.1	7.3	Total Expenditure	362.5	232.9
Total Revenue	198.5	217.2			

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS:

At the end of seven months of the current financial year progress payments in tax reimbursements from the Commonwealth exceeded such receipts for the corresponding period of last year by £2.9 millions. Probate and stamp duties rose by £500,000.

Comparing the seven months periods of 1946/47 with 1945/46, expenditure of railways, trams and buses rose by £1 million while revenue rose only £370,000.

For the remaining five months of this financial year Commonwealth tax re-inbursements will be approximately £8.8 millions or £1.9 millions less than in the closing four months of 1945/46. The rise in the basic wage operating from December, 1946 will entail higher expenditure for February - June, 1947 than in the corresponding period of 1946.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JANUARY, 1947.
(£ millions)

REVENUE			EXPENDITURE		
	1945/46	1946/47		1945/46	1946/47
From Commonwealth ^x	6.5	10.0	Net Debt Charges	8.8	8.1
State taxation	3.6	4.1	Governmental	12.8	14.6
Other Governmental	4.2	4.2	Business Undertakings ^{xx}	17.6	18.7
Business Undertakings ^{xx}	22.5	22.8	Total Expenditure	39.2	41.4
Total Revenue	36.8	41.1	Net Deficit	-2.4	-0.3

x Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interests and hospital benefit.

xx Railways, trams and buses, Maritime Services. Excludes debt charges.

OVERSEAS TRADE - AUSTRALIA:

For the six months ended December, 1946 exports from Australia totalled £154.5 millions exceeding total imports by £53.2 millions, as compared with an import surplus of £19 millions for the same period of 1945 and an export surplus of £9 millions in 1938. The improvement in the trade balance is due to rising export values which have doubled since 1938, and since 1945 also to the gradual decline in Government imports of war materials.

OVERSEA TRADE - AUSTRALIA
(excluding bullion and specie movements)
(£A millions)

	Six months ended December		
	1938	1945	1946
Imports: Civil Trade		51.3	89.6
Govt. Account		52.5	11.7
Total	65.1	103.8	101.3
Exports: Total	74.1	84.5	154.5
B a l a n c e :	+ 9.0	- 19.3	+ 53.2

(+) denotes excess of exports, (-) excess of imports

The improvement in the export position during 1946 is not as considerable as a comparison of half-yearly exports for 1945 and 1946 seems to suggest. Half of the increase in exports is due to larger wool shipments and much of this wool is from stocks sold before the resumption of auction sales. Export prices have risen by about 150% between 1938 and 1946 so that the physical volume of exports was probably smaller in the latter year. Comparing the 1945 and 1946 periods the price index (base-weighted averages) rose by about 38%, and quantities shipped of major export items (excepting sugar, hides and skins and metals) also increased. The rise in export prices since 1945 applies to all the principal export commodities with the exception of butter, wine and mutton.

PRINCIPAL EXPORT ITEMS - AUSTRALIA
(£A Millions)

	Six months ended December		
	1938	1945	1946
Wool	22.7	28.8	60.2
Wheat and Flour	6.1	2.1	13.3
Hides and Skins	1.8	5.5	9.5
Meats	5.8	5.1	9.6
Dairy Produce	7.6	6.8	8.6
Lead	2.1	2.2	3.5
Textiles	0.1	0.8	3.5
Apparel and Attire	0.1	1.3	2.6

Primary products still make up the bulk of exports but there has been a marked trend towards exporting them in processed instead of raw form, as shown by the proportional increase in exports of scoured wool, wheaton flour and tinned meats. Exports of manufactured goods are also gaining great importance. Post-war conditions have opened up new markets for secondary industries and exports of textiles, apparel and attire, and machinery have steadily increased throughout 1946.

Imports into Australia continue to lag behind demand; increases in value shown for 1946 as compared with 1945 or pre-war years seem largely due to higher prices.

PRINCIPAL IMPORT COMMODITIES - AUSTRALIA
(£A millions)

	Six months ended December		
	1938	1945	1946
Motor Cars (chassis & parts)	4.2	3.7	6.9
Piicogoods: Cotton & Linen	3.2	5.0	5.6
Artificial Silk	1.8	3.4	5.5
Petroleum	3.2	4.9	4.6
Tea	1.7	2.9	3.3
Motive Power Machinery	1.8	5.5	2.9

RETAIL TRADE (Sydney City Stores):

The value of sales in large Sydney stores in December, 1946 was 33% higher than in December, 1945. Throughout 1946 the value of sales was 32% higher than in 1945, the increase being greatest during the early months of the year with a slight decline after June because sales in the second half of 1945 began to rise above war-time levels. The return of servicemen to civilian life and relaxation of austerity rules are reflected in high retail turnovers but they are also partly due to rising prices.

Comparing 1938 and 1946 the value of sales has risen by about two thirds. No price index weighted according to goods sold in large stores is available; the retail price index for clothing rose by 85% between the September quarter, 1939 and December quarter, 1946, the index for food and groceries by 13% and miscellaneous items (which includes household drapery and utensils) by 25%. It is evident, therefore that much or even all of the increase in turnovers is due to higher prices.

The stock position in retail stores has improved during the second half of 1946; total value of stocks in December 1946 was 38% higher than in December, 1945. Stocks in 1946 were 50% above 1938 levels but here again the rise in prices has to be taken into account; also figures might be inflated by good stocks of high-priced luxury lines while stocks of cheaper lines which are in demand are not available.

During 1946 stores increased their staffs well above pre-war levels. The number of employees in all retail stores in New South Wales which had been about 80,000 at the outbreak of war and 69,000 in July, 1945 rose to 88,000 in November, 1946. Higher turnovers made up for the increase in wages and salaries. Remuneration paid as a percentage of total sales (in selected Sydney stores) fell from 13.1% in December, 1938 to 11.7% in December, 1946.

RETAIL TRADE - EXPERIENCE OF LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase + or decrease - on same month of previous year.

Value of	1946							
	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Sales	+52	+10	+26	+45	+32	+28	+14	+33
Stock	-13	- 8	+ 1	+ 8	+12	+21	+29	+38

Value of sales in all departments was higher in December, 1946 than in December, 1945 which shows the improvement in Christmas business as compared with the previous year. With the exception of dress piece goods, hosiery and boys' wear, stocks in all departments were above the level of December, 1945 but particularly in the clothing sections they are still well below requirements.

LARGE SYDNEY STORES

Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) December 1946 compared with December 1945.

	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Stock</u>		<u>Sales</u>	<u>Stock</u>
	%	%		%	%
Piece Goods	+47	+2	Furniture	+76	+40
Women's Wear	+18	+54	Hardware	+63	+55
Men's Wear	+25	+22	Food & Perishables	+39	+92
Boots & Shoes	+28	+84	Miscellaneous	+35	+58
Total Clothing	+25	+35	All Classes	+33	+38

A survey of stocks in retail stores (city and country) during the December quarter, 1946 indicates the small size of stocks as compared with pre-war levels. Over two thirds of the stores held less than 10% of pre-war stocks in suits, socks, women's stockings and shoes and the remaining stores held less than half of pre-war stocks. Stocks of many other items of men's and women's wear, linen cutlery and crockery are also only a fraction of what stores regarded as normal pre-war stocks.

RETAIL PRICES AND WAGES:

The retail price index ("C" series) in Sydney rose from 1167 in the September quarter, 1946 to 1177 in the December quarter because of increases in food (meat) and clothing (stockings and cotton goods) prices. The food and grocery index has shown little fluctuation since the end of the war, - the figure for December, 1946 is about the same as at June, 1945 and lower than in June, 1943 when price stabilisation became effective, though 12.6% higher than at outbreak of war. Clothing prices which are partly dependent on import prices have continually increased since the end of the war and are now 85% above the pre-war level.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX, SYDNEY.

Items	Increases from September Quarter 1939 to				
	June Qr. 1943	March Qr. 1946	June Qr. 1946	Sept. Qr. 1946	Dec. Qr. 1946
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Food and groceries	+14.5	+11.3	+11.8	+10.8	+12.6
Rent	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
Clothing	+75.9	+74.0	+79.5	+82.7	+84.9
Miscellaneous	+23.7	+24.3	+24.7	+24.4	+25.1
All Items	+24.9	+23.4	+24.9	+25.1	+26.2

A special increase of 7/- in the basic wage (weekly male adults) was granted by an interim judgment of the Arbitration Court in December, 1946. This brought the Sydney rate (4 towns) up to £5/8/- as against £4/1/- in August, 1939 and £4/18/- in May, 1943 when price stabilisation was introduced.

SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

National Security regulations restricting stock exchange transactions expired at the end of December, 1946. During the first half of January, 1947 rises in share prices were subject to a system of internal control imposed by stock exchange authorities; these restrictions were gradually relaxed, and since 20th January share dealings have been completely free.

As expected prices for most shares rose substantially above their previous pegged values to a level at which sellers were prepared to do business. The index for "34 active shares" rose from 247.2 in December to 259.6 in January that is 43% higher than at outbreak of war. The removal of restrictions caused an increase in turnovers. Sufficient shares were offered to keep price rises within limits, and after the first buying wave the demand began to flag for some shares and prices at the end of January were generally a little below the high levels reached earlier in the month.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY

Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. Bank). Par value = 100.
(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician)

Month	Manufacturing and Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral and Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939 - Aug.	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942 - Mar.	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1945 - Aug.	242.3	207.3	170.3	146.8	264.6	195.6	209.9
1946 - July	280.5	239.5	190.5	161.6	306.9	222.3	240.6
Aug.	285.7	244.6	193.6	165.1	312.2	226.2	244.5
Sept.	290.5	250.1	196.2	163.7	322.5	229.9	247.1
Oct.	289.0	251.9	196.4	159.4	322.5	229.2	245.6
Nov.	290.0	251.8	195.9	158.0	322.5	229.1	245.7
Dec.	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1947 - Jan.	307.8	289.0	202.9	165.5	343.8	243.8	259.6

COMPANY PROFITS: Figures compiled by The Commonwealth Bank covering Australian companies with shareholders' funds totalling £265-270 millions show that the rate of profit on shareholders' funds (after making provision for taxation) rose from 6.3% in 1945 to 6.4% in 1946. More complete figures for 1945 (referring to about £458 millions of shareholders' funds) showed an average profit of 5.9% as against 6.8% in 1939. Comparing 1945 and 1946 shipping, newspaper, insurance and finance companies reveal lower profits while manufacturing, mining and distributing firms improved their results.

PART III: RURAL INDUSTRIESTHE SEASON:

During January seasonal conditions remained unfavourable in most parts of the State. Good rain-falls occurred only in North-Eastern districts and improved the outlook for the dairying industry, but drought conditions continued in the North-West and caused heavy stock losses. However, heavy rainfalls during February have greatly improved the position in many parts of the State.

RAINFALL INDEX, NEW SOUTH WALES

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.

Normal rainfall each month = 100.

Period	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts	Dairying Districts			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	State		N.	C.	S.	State
1944 (year)	66	54	53	53	57	53	87	69	60	79
1945 (year)	99	101	86	77	93	89	114	98	104	109
1946 Jan.	153	100	166	236	151	158	92	44	67	77
Feb.	95	129	327	228	195	269	174	77	100	140
Mar.	66	76	105	43	79	95	164	197	63	160
April	66	90	61	14	65	57	98	291	136	152
May	39	40	53	24	42	43	13	22	30	18
June	23	38	75	64	49	50	6	69	173	44
July	17	38	109	34	55	84	1	2	7	2
Aug.	2	13	60	8	25	41	20	3	19	16
Sept.	203	68	15	156	99	39	101	76	52	88
Oct.	34	63	51	17	46	17	103	51	66	85
Nov.	84	77	191	73	116	155	45	66	225	73
Dec.	78	83	98	116	90	94	79	77	34	72
1947 Jan.	77	21	8	7	31	18	190	75	31	140

N: Northern, C: Central, S: Southern, W: Western.

WOOL:

Clearances of wool (1946/47 clip) from stores in New South Wales during January, 1947 exceeded arrivals by 53,000 bales and the balance of this seasons wool held in stores decreased from 457,000 bales to 404,000 bales. Wool exports from the State for the seven months ended January totalled 1.16 million bales, of which over half was wool from previous clips.

MOVEMENT OF WOOL STOCKS (1946/47 Clip)

July, 1946 to January, 1947

	Thousand bales.
N.S.W. Stores: Received	955
Disposed	551
Balance in Store	404
Exports from N.S.W. (incl. wool from earlier clips)	1163

Of the 551,000 bales disposed to the end of January, 490,000 bales were sold at auction, 57,000 bales were disposed of privately, and 4,000 unoffered or passed in wool shipped ex store. During the period Joint Organisation bought in 22,000 bales for which bids had not reached the reserve price, that is less than 2% of all wool sold. Buyers continued to bid strongly at the January and February sales for all lines except very burry and coarse crossbreds. The demand from Britain, France, Belgium and Italy continues to be very keen and American buyers are active.

The average price of greasy wool at Sydney auction sales (taking into account composition of the clip) rose from 20½d per lb at the opening auction in September, 1946 to 25d in February, 1947, that is an advance of 10d over the 1943/46 appraisement price and about 150% above the 1939 price.

AVERAGE PRICE FOR GREASY WOOL, Realised at Sydney

Year ended 30th June	d per lb.	Month	d per lb. ^{xx}
1928	19.5	1946 Sept.	20.5
1931	8.7	Oct.	21.5
1939	10.3	Nov.	23.0
1940	13.4 x	Dec.	23.0
1941 and 1942	13.1 x	1947 Jan.	24.0
1943 to 1946	15.1 x	Feb.	25.0

x On basis of British Government contract. xx Average rate that would be realised if whole clip were sold at Sydney price levels of that month.

Of the wool exports from Australia (old stocks and current clip) for the six months ended December, 1946, a third went to France and Belgium, 29% to the United States, 17% to the United Kingdom and 10% to Italy.

The world demand for wool has been so keen that the liquidation of accumulated war-time stocks has been proceeding quicker than originally expected. Total stocks estimated at 10 million bales at the end of the war will probably be reduced to 5 million bales by the end of the 1946/47 season. At 30th June, 1946 Joint Organisation held 6.3 million bales (about 2,000 million lbs); because of the resumption of auction sales for the current clip the Joint Organisation planned to sell only 300,000 bales before the end of December, 1946, but as the market remained firm this was raised to 520,000 bales. For the second half of the season it is proposed to offer 700,000 - 750,000 bales from Joint Organisation stocks for sale in the United Kingdom and Dominions; the programme for Australia includes 200,000 bales of merino and 50,000 bales of crossbred wool. About 40,000 bales of Joint Organisation wool will be offered for sale in Sydney in February and early March.

Many continental countries which require wool find it difficult to finance imports with their limited resources of foreign exchange; special agreements are being made with these countries to overcome such difficulties. Austria has negotiated a loan with a British banking syndicate for the financing of wool imports with proceeds of exports of woollen goods. Hungary is using proceeds from food exports to England for the purchase of wool. British authorities plan to send wool for combing to Germany for re-export to the United Kingdom. The restoration of the Russian textile industry is making good progress, and negotiations have been started to import wool machinery, processed wool and finished cloths from the United Kingdom.

WHEAT:

Up to the 8th February, 1947, 8.2 million bushels of wheat had been delivered to the Wheat Board from New South Wales and 86 million bushels from other States. The final total for Australia is expected to be 97 - 98 million bushels.

Wheat lands in New South Wales are generally in good condition. The area sown to wheat is expected to exceed greatly the 4.2 million acres sown in 1946.

The Wheat Board's basic export price f.o.r. ports was 13/8½ per bushel in January, 1947 that is about 4/- higher than a year ago and more than double the price paid in January, 1945.

WHEAT EXPORT PRICES, AUSTRALIA

1928	1939	1940	1945	1946				1947
			January	January	October	November	December	January
5/1	2/6	4/-	6/5	9/8	11/9	12/5	13/8	13/8½

Note: (1928 and 1939 figures "Shippers' Limits f.o.r. ports"; since then mean of Australian Wheat Board's basic export price for bulk and bagged wheat reduced to f.o.r. ports).

The terms of the Commonwealth Government's wheat agreement with New Zealand were recently announced. The New Zealand Government will buy $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels a year for four years beginning 1946/47 at 5/9 a bushel f.o.b. The Commonwealth Government will pay the Australian Wheat Board at the ruling export prices. During the past eight years New Zealand's wheat imports from Australia have been well below the new target figure. In 1938-39 they amounted to 3.1 million bushels, during the war years they averaged 2.1 million bushels a year and in 1945-46 only 944,000 bushels.

The following table (compiled from various sources by the Commonwealth Statistician) gives an indication of wheat production and exports in the four principal exporting countries.

WHEAT PRODUCTION & EXPORTS								
Season	UNITED STATES		CANADA		ARGENTINA		AUSTRALIA	
	Crop	Exports	Crop	Exports	Crop	Exports	Crop	Exports
million bushels								
1938/39	920	109	360	158	379	122	155	91
1944/45	1072	97	417	346	150	xx	53	19
1945/46x	1123	386	319	340	144	xx	142	56
1946/47x	1156	275	421	xx	218	xx	117	40

x 1946/47 and some 1945/46 figures based on estimates and forecasts.

xx Not available.

DAIRYING:

The dairying outlook in all parts has been improved by good rainfalls in January and February, and some recovery in production is expected as pastures recover from prolonged dry conditions. The butter output in January was equal to that in December. For the seven months ended January, 1947, the production was only little over half that of the average for 1939-1942.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, NEW SOUTH WALES (thousand tons)

Year	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	Total seven months
Average								
1938-39 to 1941-42	2.4	2.4	2.9	3.8	4.4	5.0	5.0	26.0
1945-46	1.5	1.8	2.2	3.4	3.3	3.9	3.6	19.7
1946-47	1.2	1.2	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.8	2.8	13.8

Butter production in Australia in 1945-46 was 150,000 tons, that is well below the pre-war average of 195,000 tons (Average 5 years ended 1938-39). Poor seasonal conditions and manpower difficulties have greatly reduced the butter output in New South Wales and Queensland since the end of the war while production in Victoria has increased.

Dry conditions in the Sydney milk zone in ^{early} January caused a falling off in supplies, and sales of milk and cream to consumers were rationed. However, milk production recovered in February, and full supplies were made available again to consumers as from 24th February.

MILK SUPPLIED TO MILK BOARD - SYDNEY (Four-weekly periods. Million gallons)

Four weeks ended	1945	1946		1947	
	December 13	January 10	February 7	December 12	January 9
Whole Milk	3.46	3.40	3.53	3.64	3.40
Sweet Cream Milk	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.53	0.55
					3.52
					0.23